Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the occurrence of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal, the method comprising:

(a) filling an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal with a flowable, moldable, biocompatible, bioresorbable gel dressing prepared by (i) reacting ~~(i)~~ a collagen derivative and ~~(ii)~~ a non-cytotoxic crosslinking agent,[[;]] and (ii) allowing the reaction mixture to gel at 20-37 degrees Celsius; and

(b) enclosing the dressing in the cavity

whereby alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal are inhibited.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

step (b) comprises enclosing the dressing in the cavity by suturing tissue above the dressing.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

step (a) comprises filling the dressing in the oral cavity with a medical syringe.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, and compounds containing copper cations.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the melting point of the dressing is above 38 degrees Celsius.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising:

a syringe loaded with a wound dressing for inhibiting the occurrence of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal, wherein the dressing comprises:

a flowable, moldable, biocompatible, bioresorbable gel dressing prepared by (i) reacting ~~(i)~~ a collagen derivative and ~~(ii)~~ a non-cytotoxic crosslinking agent, and (ii) allowing the reaction mixture to gel at 20-37 degrees Celsius.

13. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin.

14. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

17. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, and compounds containing copper cations.

18. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the melting point of the dressing is above 38 degrees Celsius.

19. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

20. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the occurrence of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal, the method comprising:

(a) filling an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal with a flowable, moldable, biocompatible, bioresorbable dressing prepared by (i) reacting ~~(i)~~ a collagen derivative and ~~(ii)~~ a non-cytotoxic crosslinking agent[[;]], and (ii) allowing the reaction mixture to gel at 20-37 degrees Celsius; and

(b) enclosing the dressing in the cavity,

wherein step (a) comprises filling the dressing in the oral cavity with a medical syringe, and whereby alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal are inhibited.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of peroxides, and compounds containing metal cations.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein:

the dressing is a gel.